

# National Regional Profile: Explanatory Notes

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 29/04/2010 CLASSIFICATIONS CODE: 0

## Introduction

### Economy

**Includes:** Estimates of Unemployment; Selected Government Pensions and Allowances; Taxation Statistics; Estimates of Personal Income; Wage and Salary Earners; Estimates of Household Wealth; Counts of Businesses, Entries and Exits

### Population/People

**Includes:** Estimated Resident Population; Indigenous Estimated Resident Population; Population Density; Census 2006; Births; Deaths

### Industry

**Includes:** Building Approvals; Motor Vehicle Census; Tourist Accommodation Establishments; Agricultural Commodities; Value of Agricultural Production

### Environment/Energy

**Includes:** Land Area; Water Use on Australian Farms

### Statistical Geography

**Includes:** Geographic correspondences; Geographic regions; Transformed Data Sets

## INTRODUCTION

**1** The National Regional Profile presents a standard set of data for a range of geographies, including state/territory and Australia. Below state/territory level, data is available for the following levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC): Local Government Area (LGA), Statistical Local Area (SLA), Statistical Subdivision (SSD), and Statistical Division (SD).

**2** There is a standard set of data for each region. Data for individual regions can be viewed as web pages, or downloaded as Excel spreadsheets. Files containing data for all regions can be accessed via the 'Compare Region' button in the National Regional Profile. Files containing data for all regions are in two formats: SuperTABLE files (.srd format) and a comma separated value (.csv) file that can be opened in a variety of packages, including Excel.

**3** Data in the National Regional Profile are sourced from a wide variety of collections, both ABS and non-ABS. When analysing data care needs to be taken as time periods, definitions, methodologies, scope and coverage differ between collections. Where available, data have been presented as a time series. Time series data enable users to assess changes over time. However, looked at on a period to period basis, these series may be volatile. When analysing the data, users are encouraged to consider the longer term behaviour of the series, where this is available.

**4** While information on the datasets and terms used in the National Regional Profile are included below and in the accompanying Glossary, more detailed information about the data can be obtained by referring to the relevant source listed for each dataset. Further information about statistical terms can be found in Statistical Language! (cat.no. 1332.0.55.002).

**5** All data presented in the National Regional Profile are on geographic boundaries as described in the 2008 edition of the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC 2008). For further information see Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0). For further information on how data have been presented on ASGC 2008, see Geographic Correspondences at paragraphs 149 to 153 of these Explanatory Notes.

**6** This is the sixth release of the National Regional Profile. The previous releases (e.g. edition five was for the reference years 2004 to 2008) are available via the 'Past & Future Releases' tab of this product. Care

should be taken in comparing data within the previous and current releases of the National Regional Profile as:

- some data will have been subject to revision; and
- previous releases refer to different geographical boundaries, based on earlier editions of the ASGC.

**7** In some cases, a profile has not been produced for every region. This is usually because there is insufficient data for that region. For example, there have been no profiles produced for Other Territories (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands).

**8** Some values in the NRP have been randomly adjusted or suppressed to avoid the release of confidential data. Care should be taken when interpreting cells with small numbers. In some cases small cells have been randomly altered to zero. Caution should be exercised in deducing that there are no people or units with particular characteristics in a given area.

**9** These Explanatory Notes have been presented using the ABS Topic Framework. Data are also presented using the Topic Framework within the National Regional Profile. The topics are: **Economy** (paragraphs 10 to 70), **Population/People** (paragraphs 71 to 112), **Industry** (paragraphs 113 to 142) and **Environment/Energy** (paragraphs 143 to 146).

[Back to top](#)

## ECONOMY

### Estimates of Unemployment

**10** Unemployment estimates for small areas are produced by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) using the Structure Preserving Estimation (SPREE) methodology. The series used in the National Regional Profile is a four quarter smoothed series, at June quarter of each year. SPREE uses statistics from the Australian Government agency Centrelink of persons in receipt of Newstart and Youth Allowance and ABS Population Census and Labour Force Survey estimates by Labour Force Regions to estimate unemployment levels. Sampling and non-sampling errors in these collections will flow into the DEEWR estimates.

**11** This methodology produces original, unadjusted estimates which can exhibit considerable variability. The SLA level data shown in the National Regional Profile have been 'smoothed' by averaging the original estimates over the four quarters to June for each year. Particular care should be taken when interpreting estimates for regions where the estimated labour force is smaller than 1000 persons.

**12** SLA level data are as at first published by DEEWR for that quarter in the publication 'Small Area Labour Markets, Australia' which can be accessed at [www.workplace.gov.au](http://www.workplace.gov.au). State level data has been taken from ABS Labour Force statistics. These estimates are annual averages as first published in ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001).

**13** DEEWR produced the unemployment estimates at SLA level for 2009 on ASGC 2006 geographic boundaries. Prior to 2009, DEEWR produced these estimates on ASGC 2001 geographic boundaries. The impact of these changes has caused inconsistencies in the time series between 2008 and 2009 for some of the regions presented. A summary of these changes can be found in the document 'Changes to the Australian Standards Geographical Classification and Small Area Labour Markets', which can be accessed from [www.workplace.gov.au](http://www.workplace.gov.au).

**14** For all years, a geographic correspondence process has been used to present the data based on 2008 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2008) in the National Regional Profile. Further information on Geographic Correspondences and the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) can be found in paragraphs 149 to 153.

**15** A detailed description of the methodology used in deriving the estimates is presented in the DEEWR quarterly publication 'Small Area Labour Markets, Australia' which can be accessed at [www.workplace.gov.au](http://www.workplace.gov.au)

## Selected Government Pensions and Allowances

**16** Data on the number of individuals receiving selected Government pensions and allowances has been provided by Centrelink, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

- Age pension data has been provided by FaHCSIA for those individuals receiving an Age pension through Centrelink, while DVA has provided data for those individuals receiving an Age Pension through DVA;
- FaHCSIA has provided data on Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Family Tax Benefit (A, B, A or B) and Baby Bonus;
- Centrelink has provided data on Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowances, and Parenting Payment.

**17** Selected Government Pensions and Allowances Data has been provided to the ABS on an aggregate basis, for Statistical Local Areas. Totals for most items are available for Australia, States and Territories. Some regions have missing data due to the need to protect privacy and confidentialise data in areas with small numbers of beneficiaries, or due to incompatible geographic boundaries (see para 29-33). Where possible, SLA data has been aggregated to form estimates for LGAs, SSDs and SDs.

**18** Age pension is a payment for persons who have reached Age Pension age. Age Pension age depends on the individual's date of birth:

For men:

- if born before 1/7/52, Age Pension age is 65

For women:

- if born before 1/7/35, Age Pension age is 60
- if born between 1/7/35 and 31/12/36, Age Pension age is 60.5
- if born between 1/1/37 and 30/6/38, Age Pension age is 61
- if born between 1/7/38 and 30/12/39, Age Pension age is 61.5
- if born between 1/1/40 and 30/6/41, Age Pension age is 62
- if born between 1/7/41 and 31/12/42, Age Pension age is 62.5
- if born between 1/1/43 and 30/6/44, Age Pension age is 63
- if born between 1/7/44 and 31/12/45, Age Pension age is 63.5
- if born between 1/1/46 and 30/6/47, Age Pension age is 64
- if born between 1/7/47 and 31/12/48, Age Pension age is 64.5
- if born between 1/1/49 and 30/6/52, Age Pension age is 65

For men and women:

- if born between 1/7/52 and 31/12/53, Age Pension age is 65.5
- if born between 1/1/54 and 30/6/55, Age Pension age is 66
- if born between 1/7/55 and 31/12/56, Age Pension age is 66.5
- if born 1/1/57 or later, Age Pension age is 67

**19** The majority of Age Pensions are paid by Centrelink. Age pensioners who also receive a Disability Pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) have the choice of having their Age Pension paid by either the DVA or Centrelink. People who choose to receive the Age Pension through the DVA are not included in Centrelink data and therefore two separate data items - Age Pension (Centrelink) and Age Pension (DVA) - are published in the National Regional Profile. The Centrelink Age Pension data has been provided by FaHCSIA and includes overseas pension recipients in the total for Australia. Both Age Pension totals for Australia include persons whose address could not be coded to a specific region.

**20** The purpose of Disability Support Pension (DSP) is to provide income support for people who have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment. DSP is designed to give people an adequate means of support if they are unable to work for at least 15 hours per week at or above the relevant minimum wage, independent of a program or support. DSP data has been provided by FaHCSIA and includes overseas pension recipients and persons whose address could not be coded to a specific region in the total for Australia.

**21** Carer Payment is for people who are unable to support themselves through participation in the workforce while caring for someone with a disability, severe medical condition, or who is frail and aged. Carer Payment data has been provided by FaHCSIA and includes persons whose address could not be coded to a specific region in the total for Australia.

**22** Newstart Allowance is a payment for people who are looking for work and allows them to participate in activities designed to increase their chances of finding work. Persons must be aged 21 to 64 to qualify. Newstart Allowance data has been provided by Centrelink.

**23** Youth Allowance is a payment for young people who are studying, undertaking training or an Australian Apprenticeship, looking for work, or sick. Persons must be aged 15 to 24 to qualify. Youth Allowance data has been provided by Centrelink.

**24** Parenting Payment is a payment for persons who are primary carers of children. Parenting Payment data has been provided by Centrelink.

**25** Family Tax Benefits are paid to help with the costs of raising children. Around 75% of all families with at least one dependent child aged under 16 are eligible to receive Family Tax Benefits. These payments should be viewed differently to other Centrelink payments which by their targeted nature can help to identify segments of the population considered to be disadvantaged. Family Tax Benefit data has been provided by FaHCSIA.

**26** Family Tax Benefit Part A can be paid to a parent, guardian or an approved care organisation to help with the costs of raising children. There are eligibility requirements involving the age and educational status of the child, residency and income. Family Tax Benefit Part B is an extra payment for single parents and families with one main income to help with the costs of raising children. Part B is limited to families where the primary earner has an adjusted taxable income of \$150,000 or less per financial year. There are also additional eligibility requirements. Approximately three-quarters of customers will appear in both categories as they are in receipt of both payments. Data presented in regard to Family Tax Benefits B refer only to fortnightly instalment customers paid directly by Centrelink. It excludes an additional 10% (approximately) who are paid by a lump sum which is claimable at the end of a financial year.

**27** Baby Bonus may be paid to families following the birth (including stillbirth) or adoption of a child, where the eligibility requirements for family Tax Benefit for the child are met within 26 weeks of the child's birth (or, in the case of adoption, within 26 weeks of the child being entrusted into the claimant's care). Prior to 2008, Baby Bonus was known as Maternity Payment. From 1 January 2009 an income test was introduced for Baby Bonus. Customers must have an estimated income of \$75,000 or less in the 6 months following the birth of the child. Baby Bonus data has been provided by FaHCSIA.

**28** With the exception of Baby Bonus payments, all Government Pensions and allowances data refer to a point in time (i.e. the number of persons receiving payment as at the pay period closest to 30 June each year) and therefore do not represent all the customers in receipt of payments during the entire financial year. Customers who have been suspended or not paid at that point of time are not included in these data. Baby Bonus data is a cumulative dataset based on financial year (i.e. it is year-to-date). Customers may be granted more than one payment during a 12 month period (for two different births at two different ages), however they are counted only once in the total.

**29** Centrelink data for 2009 was provided for Statistical Local Areas using 2008 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2008). Centrelink data for 2004 to 2008 was provided for Statistical Local Areas using 2006 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2006). All regions that have a value of less than 20, including zero, have been confidentialised for privacy reasons.

**30** FaHCSIA data was provided for Statistical Local Areas using 2006 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2006). All regions that have a value of less than 5, including zero, have been confidentialised for privacy reasons.

**31** Data has been provided by DVA for Statistical Local Areas and confidentialised where there were less than 4 persons in a region.

**32** The NRP presents all data on 2008 geographic boundaries. Where data has been provided using 2006 geographic boundaries no attempt has been made to convert this to 2008 boundaries. Instead, data has only been provided for regions where the geographic boundary has remained unchanged between 2006 and 2008.

**33** Where a person could not be allocated to a region within a state/territory, they have been shown in the totals for the state/territory.

**34** More information about specific Centrelink payments can be accessed through the Centrelink website at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au).

[Back to top](#)

## Taxation Statistics

**35** Taxable income data are sourced from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and provided to the ABS by the ATO in aggregated form only, at the Statistical Local Area level. Information about individual taxpayers has not been released to the ABS. The statistics are based on individual income tax returns lodged for the financial year ended 30 June, and processed within sixteen months of the financial year to which they relate.

**36** The main functions and responsibilities of the ATO are to administer taxation legislation and to collect a wide variety of taxes. The ATO therefore collects data from its reporting population as part of its processes to calculate income tax liability for those persons who are required to lodge an income tax return.

**37** Individuals who submit an individual income tax return (Taxable Individuals) report their total income from various sources over a financial year. Their taxable income is the amount remaining after deducting from assessable income all deductions allowed under the Income Tax Assessment Act and is the amount to which tax rates are applied. Non-taxable Individuals are those individuals who submit a tax return, but for whom no tax is payable.

**38** Data items include:

- non-taxable individual: Personal (or individual) taxpayers with net tax payable equal to \$0.
- taxable individual: Personal (or individual) taxpayers with net tax payable greater than \$0.
- taxable income: Income as reported on the individual income tax return, less deductions and less prior year losses for primary production and non-primary production.
- net tax: Net tax for individuals is calculated from Total income less deductions and losses, applying marginal tax rates, adding complementary tax, less tax offsets and adding the Medicare levy and surcharge.
- net tax as % of taxable income.

For further information, refer to 'Taxation Statistics' 2007-08 at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au).

**39** Averages presented are calculated by dividing the total reported for an area by the total number of taxable taxpayers. For example, average taxable income is the total taxable income reported for an area divided by the total number of taxable individuals in that area.

**40** The statistics are based on individual income tax returns lodged for the financial year ended 30 June, regardless of the year in which they were processed.

**41** A geographic correspondence has been used by the Australian Taxation Office in order to present the original data on Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2008 boundaries. Further general information on Geographic Correspondences can be found in paragraphs 149 to 153.

## Estimates of Personal Income

**42** Estimates of Personal Income data are compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and provided to the ABS by the ATO in aggregated form only, at the Statistical Local Area level. Information about individual taxpayers has not been released to the ABS. Prior to being provided to the ABS, the statistics have been subjected to a confidentiality process that randomly adjusts table cells with small values. This includes altering some small cells to zero. The statistics are based on individual income tax returns lodged for the financial year ended 30 June, and processed within sixteen months of the financial year to which they relate.

**43** The ATO database covers all individuals who submit an individual income tax return and includes persons with income from one or more of a range of sources such as wages and salaries, own business, investment, superannuation and annuity, and other income.

**44** Wages and salaries are the main forms of payments made to employees for their work or services. Wage and salary income, as reported on the income tax return, includes:

- Gross income, as shown on the 'PAYG payment summary - individual non-business';
- Allowances, which may include car, travel or transport allowances, allowances for tools, clothing or laundry and dirt, risk, meal or entertainment allowances;
- Commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities, consultation fees, honoraria and other payments for services;
- Attributed personal services income;
- Eligible termination payments and
- Lump sums.

**45** Own unincorporated business income includes the following data items on the individual income tax return:

- net income (or loss) from business;
- distributions from partnerships and trusts for primary production activities;
- distributions from partnerships for non-primary production activities and
- net personal services income.

**46** The data for Own unincorporated business income excludes distributions from trusts for non-primary production activities as this mainly includes income from a range of other activities (mainly investments). It also excludes the income of working directors/owners of incorporated businesses who are classified as employees and consequently their income is included under wage and salary income.

**47** Investment income includes:

- interest from financial institutions;
- net rent and dividends or distributions (including imputation credits) from an Australian company, corporate unit trust or public trading trust;
- distributions from trusts - non-primary production which mainly includes income from investments with cash management trusts, property trusts, money market trusts, mortgage trusts and unit trusts.

**48** Superannuation and annuity income includes superannuation and similar pensions and annuities paid by an Australian superannuation fund, a retirement saving account provider, a registered organisation or life assurance company and pensions paid by a fund established for the benefit of Commonwealth, state or territory employees and their dependants. Also included in this category are bonuses from life insurance companies and friendly societies.

**49** A change to legislation relating to superannuation, taking effect from 1 July 2007, means that people aged 60 years and over who receive superannuation income in the form of a lump sum or income stream (such as a pension) from a taxed source, will now receive that income tax free. Therefore, if a person has no other income, or their total income is below the tax-free threshold, or any tax payable is mitigated by a tax

offset (such as Senior Australian Tax Offset), then this person will not be required to lodge a tax return. This change to legislation has resulted in a break in the income series for superannuation and annuities with fewer persons reporting income from this income source for the 2007-08 income year onwards.

**50** Other income (excluding Government pensions and allowances) is made up of selected sources of other income reported on the individual income tax return that were not allocated to one of the above categories. In the main these include attributed foreign income and all other income as reported in question 24 (supplementary section) of the 2007-08 income tax return.

**51** Averages presented are calculated by dividing the total income reported for each income source by the total number of taxable taxpayers for that income source. For example, average Wage and salary income is the total Wage and salary income reported for an area divided by the total number of Wage and salary earners in that area.

**52** A geographic correspondence has been used by the Australian Taxation Office in order to present the original data on Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2008 boundaries. Further general information on Geographic Correspondences can be found in paragraphs 149 to 153.

**53** Further information on these statistics can be found in Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002).

[Back to top](#)

## **Wage and Salary Earners**

**54** Wage and salary earner data provides more detail on the Wage and salary earners in 'Estimates of Personal Income' series (paragraphs 42 to 53). The statistics are based on individual income tax returns lodged for the financial year ended 30 June, and processed within sixteen months of the financial year to which they relate.

**55** Occupations are coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition (cat. no. 1220.0).

**56** Further information on these statistics can be found in Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003)

[Back to top](#)

## **Estimates of Household Wealth**

**57** These estimates of household wealth for Statistical Local Areas (SLA) have been developed by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) by using synthetic estimation methods to disaggregate ABS survey estimates of household wealth. These estimates at SLA level can be found in the BITRE 2008 publication 'Household Wealth', Information Paper 63 and associated database ([www.bitre.gov.au](http://www.bitre.gov.au)). As these statistics have been produced using estimation methods, users should note the assumptions in the methods and limitations of the data used.

**58** Estimates of household wealth from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing (see Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2003-04 (cat. no. 6523.0) and Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 6554.0)) are produced from a sample of the population and are available for broad areas such as capital city/balance of state, but are not available for small areas (see paragraph 62 for further details of the scope and coverage of the survey). BITRE have developed estimates of household wealth for small areas by applying small area estimation techniques to disaggregate components of wealth from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) at capital city/balance of state level, to Statistical Local Area level.

**59** BITRE have used two Broad Area Ratio Estimator (BARE) estimation methods to produce these estimates:

- The BARE method: This method pro-rates a broad area direct estimate (in this case, SIH data for capital city/ balance of state) by the ratio of the small area to broad area populations to produce small area estimates (in this case, at SLA level). This estimation method applies the broad area estimate proportionally across all small areas contained in the broad region. The key assumption in the BARE method is that all small areas within the broad area are sufficiently homogenous in the characteristic of interest. For example, the SIH provides estimates of credit card debt at the capital city and balance of state scale, and the BARE approach would assume that the average value of credit card debt was the same in all small areas within each capital city and balance of state region. This assumption does not hold if there is variability in credit card debt (for example) within capital cities and/or balance of state regions. Nevertheless, this estimation method is unbiased under the assumption that the estimate of proportion for each small area is the same as the broad area, however this is difficult to test in practice.
- The 'BARE with auxiliary data' method: This method can be applied where there is other ('auxiliary') small area data available that can be incorporated into the estimation method, where this can improve the estimates produced by the BARE method. This method allows for differences in proportions in the auxiliary data across small areas to be included in the proportions of the broad area estimate across small areas. For example, the SIH provides estimates of average vehicle assets at the capital city and balance of state scale, and Census data on vehicle ownership in each SLA could be used to estimate vehicle assets for SLAs.

**60** BITRE estimated fifteen components of wealth, of which thirteen had some auxiliary data. Examples of auxiliary data used in these estimates include: house prices, taxation statistics and 2001 Census data. BITRE have provided information on the auxiliary data used in the estimation process, and to which components of wealth they were applied in Chapter 3 of the Information Paper 63.

**61** Of the components of wealth estimated by BITRE, the following summary data items are presented in these profiles. Further information about these data items can be found in the BITRE Information Paper 63 ([www.bitre.gov.au](http://www.bitre.gov.au)).

- Net worth per household: Net worth represents the value of household assets minus the value of household liabilities. Net worth per household is calculated by dividing net worth in the region by the number of in-scope households in the region.
- Aggregate household net worth: The total value of household wealth, summed across all in-scope households in the region.
- Equivalised net worth: Net worth per household adjusted for the influence of household size in a region.
- Assets per household: An asset is an entity of a financial or non-financial nature, owned by the household or its members, and from which economic benefits may be derived by holding or use over a period of time. This includes accounts held with financial institutions, shares, trusts, debentures and bonds, the net value of own unincorporated and incorporated businesses, superannuation, children's assets, loans to persons outside the household, other financial investments, owner occupied property, other property assets, dwelling contents and vehicles.
- Liabilities per household: A liability is an obligation which requires one unit (the debtor) to make a payment or series of payments to the other unit (the creditor) in certain circumstances specified in a contract between them. Includes the principal outstanding on loans for owner occupied dwellings or other property, study loans, credit card debt, vehicle loans, investment loans and other loans. Debt owned by an own incorporated or unincorporated business is not included in liabilities per household but is net business assets, which are included in net worth per household.
- Debt to asset ratio: The proportion of a region's assets that are financed through debt, calculated by dividing liabilities per household by assets per household.

**62** The scope of the ABS Survey of Income and Housing, and limitations of the auxiliary data available, have limited the SLAs for which an estimate of wealth could be produced by BITRE. The SIH collects information from usual residents of private dwellings in urban and rural areas of Australia, covering about 98% of the people living in Australia. The survey excludes residents of non-private dwellings, households

which contain members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, households which contain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, and households in collection districts in the Northern Territory defined as very remote or Indigenous Communities (which account for about 23% of the territory's population).

**63** BITRE have produced data on 2001 geographical boundaries. In 2001, there were around 1350 SLAs, however, data was not produced for very remote SLAs, discrete indigenous communities, or regions with less than 500 households. BITRE have produced estimates for 1135 Statistical Local Areas (SLA), on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification boundaries for 2001. The National Regional Profile presents data for 984 SLAs where boundaries have not changed significantly between 2001 and 2008. Detailed data for all 1135 SLAs are available from the BITRE Household Wealth Database ([www.bitre.gov.au](http://www.bitre.gov.au)).

[Back to top](#)

## **Counts of Businesses, Entries and Exits**

**64** Counts of businesses, entries and exits data are based on snapshots of actively trading businesses as at June in each reference year, from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register.

**65** Most businesses in Australia need to obtain an Australian Business Number (ABN). These businesses are then included on the whole-of government register of businesses, the Australian Business Register (ABR), which is maintained by the Australian Taxation Office. The ABS uses information from the ABR to populate its internal register of businesses, the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register (ABSBR), which is used as a source for business survey frames and business counts.

**66** Counts of businesses produced from the ABSBR comprise actively trading businesses in the Australian economy. The population includes employing and non-employing, single location and multiple location businesses. It should be noted that it is not currently possible to account for those businesses which operate out of multiple locations, other than at their main location. This is particularly relevant for larger businesses, which commonly establish outlets in numerous states and regions across Australia. The reason for this is that data pertaining to individual business locations are not currently available from the ABSBR. Users should therefore be aware of this limitation when using counts of businesses.

**67** Excluded from these counts are entities which are not considered to be actively trading in the market sector, such as social and sporting clubs, charitable institutions, and government entities. Businesses which have not submitted a Business Activity Statement and/or have reported zero dollar amounts over five consecutive quarters have been excluded.

**68** The data published has been confidentialised using random rounding so as not to release the identity of any business units. The confidentialising process used in this release also means that data presented at these detailed levels will not always be additive. That is, opening stock from the beginning of the financial year, plus entries, minus exits, may not equal the closing stock for the end of the financial year.

**69** These data have been produced on 2006 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2006). Given that this edition of the National Regional Profile presents all data based on 2008 geographic boundaries, where the boundary has changed between 2006 and 2008, data has not been included in these profiles for those regions.

**70** Further information can be found in Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007 (cat. no. 8165.0).

[Back to top](#)

## **POPULATION/PEOPLE**

### **Estimated Resident Population**

**71** Population data in the profiles, unless otherwise stated, are the estimated resident population (ERP) counts for the selected region as at 30 June for the year shown. Data are shown to the nearest whole number without rounding, but accuracy to the last digit is not claimed and should not be assumed. Data for 2009 are preliminary estimates.

**72** A geographic correspondence process has been used to present the 2009 data on 2008 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2008). As a result of this process, the sum of the individual data items may not equal the total ERP count.

**73** The concept of ERP links people to a place of usual residence within Australia. Usual residence is defined as that place where each person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in the reference year.

**74** In Census years the ERP as at 30 June for a region is based on usual residence census counts, with an allowance for net census undercount and the number of residents temporarily overseas at the census date. Overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation. As the Census is held at a date other than 30 June (8 August in 2006), further adjustments taking into account births, deaths and net migration for the intervening period are made to obtain the ERP at 30 June.

**75** For post-censal years, estimates at the Australian level take into account natural increase and net overseas migration, while estimates for states and territories also use estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence.

**76** The absence of migration data at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level means that it is not possible to estimate SLA populations by taking into account natural increase and net migration. Instead, ERP for most areas are calculated using a mathematical model, where a relationship is established between changes in population and changes in other indicators between the two most recent censuses. The choice of indicators varies across the states and territories, depending on indicative ability, and includes dwelling approvals, Medicare enrolments and Australian electoral roll counts. Changes in these indicators are then used to estimate changes in the population of each area since the last census. Local knowledge, including that advised by local governments, may be used to adjust the outcome of the model for a particular SLA.

**77** More information about population concepts and the ERP methodology as adopted by the ABS for official population estimates, is in Information Paper: Population Concepts, 2008 (cat. no. 3107.0.55.006), Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 3228.0) and Methods and Procedures for Estimating Small Area Populations in Australia (cat. no. 3121.0).

**78** Further information on regional ERP data can be found in Regional Population Growth, Australia (cat. no. 3218.0) and Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia (cat. no. 3235.0).

[Back to top](#)

## **Indigenous Estimated Resident Population**

**79** Indigenous Estimated Resident Population estimates are based on 2006 Census of Population and Housing Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians adjusted for net undercount as measured by the Census Post Enumeration Survey.

**80** These data have been produced on 2006 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2006). Given that all data in this edition of the NRP is presented on 2008 geographic boundaries (see paragraphs 147 to 153), where the boundary has changed between 2006 and 2008, data have not been included in these profiles.

**81** Further information on these estimates can be found in Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, 2006 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001).

[Back to top](#)

## **Population Density (Estimated Resident Population)**

**82** The population density for a region is calculated by dividing the Estimated Resident Population (paragraphs 71 to 78) by the Land Area (paragraph 143) to obtain the number of persons per square kilometre.

[Back to top](#)

## **Census 2006 (2006 Census of Population and Housing)**

**83** The National Regional Profile presents a summary of population characteristics from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. More detailed data are available from the Census page on the ABS website. All Census data in the National Regional Profile are presented on a usual residence basis. The data relates to where the persons usually are resident, rather than where they were counted on Census night (8 August 2006).

**84** For more information about the Census, see How Australia Takes a Census (cat. no. 2903.0) and 2006 Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content (cat. no. 2008.0). For information about Census data items see Census Dictionary, 2006 (cat. no. 2901.0).

## **Census 2006 - Overseas Born Population**

**85** The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (cat. no 1269.0) was used to classify responses for birthplace of individuals. This classification used the current names of countries, so if a person uses a former name the current name is coded. For example, Siam would be coded to Thailand. If an individual's birthplace was not stated on the Census form, an attempt was made to derive it from other answers.

**86** The data shown exclude overseas visitors, persons at sea at the time of the Census, and persons whose responses on the Census form inadequately described their country of birth or for whom the birthplace was not stated (and could not be derived).

## **Census 2006 - Speaks language other than English**

**87** These data identify the language spoken at home, and are coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) (cat. no. 1267.0). Only one language is coded for each person.

## **Census 2006 - Post School Qualifications**

**88** These data show the level of education based on the highest completed non-school qualification of persons (eg. bachelor degree, diploma).

**89** The full classification for levels of education and fields of study, together with an explanation of the conceptual basis of the classification, can be found in the publication Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

## **Census 2006 - Occupation**

**90** These data include all employed people aged 15 years and over. Two occupation questions are used in the Census. The first of these asks for occupation title, while the second asks for the main tasks usually performed by the person in their occupation. Collecting both occupation title and task information ensures more accurate coding of occupations.

**91** Occupations are coded using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (cat. no. 1220.0). The Occupation code assigned is based on the main job held during the week prior to Census Night.

## **Census 2006 - Households**

**92** These data describe the type of household within a dwelling. Family households can contain non-family members (unrelated persons and visitors). A maximum of three families can be coded to a household. Lone person households can contain visitors.

## **Census 2006 - Families**

**93** Families have been classified in terms of the relationships that exist between a single family reference person and each other member of that family. Different types of families are distinguished based on the presence or absence of couple relationships, parent-child relationships, child dependency relationships or other blood relationships, in that order of preference.

**94** The family type is derived from people enumerated in the household who usually reside there and who share a familial relationship. Partners and dependent children usually present but temporarily absent are also included in this derivation. Boarders and other non-family members are excluded.

## **Census 2006 - Internal Migration**

**95** Internal migration is the movement of people from one defined area to another within a country. The Census asked if the person had a different address one year ago, and five years ago.

**96** The percentage of persons in a region who lived at a different address within Australia (one year ago, five years ago) is calculated as a proportion of the persons usually resident in the region.

**97** Data collected in the Census only reflect movements which coincide with these particular points in time (i.e. one year ago and five years ago) in the intercensal period, even though there may have been multiple movements during this period.

**98** Persons temporarily absent, visitors, and households containing only visitors, are excluded from these data.

## **Census 2006 - Proportion of Population in Remoteness Area**

**99** The Remoteness Structure of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification provides a standard geographical structure describing Australia in terms of a measurement of remoteness or distance from services. It is designed to classify Census Collection Districts which share common characteristics or remoteness into broad geographic regions called Remoteness Areas (RA).

**100** The Remoteness Structure is based upon the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which was developed for the former Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (now the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing) by the National Key Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems, now known as the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA). ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the road distances to the nearest town (service centre) in each of five population size classes. The basic premises of ARIA are that there are more services available in larger towns than small towns and that remoteness is a factor of the relative distance one must travel to access a full range of services.

**101** With a state/territory, each RA represents an aggregation of non-contiguous geographical areas which share common characteristics of remoteness. The Remoteness Structure contains the following categories which provide a measurement of whether geographic distances impose restrictions on the accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction:

- Major Cities of Australia - incorporates: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra and nearby urban areas.
- Inner Regional Australia - includes Hobart.
- Outer Regional Australia - includes Darwin.
- Remote Australia.
- Very Remote Australia.

**102** The percentages shown are the proportion of persons counted in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, by each category of Remoteness for the selected region. The proportions are based on where people usually resided as at the 2006 Census (8 August 2006).

**103** Further information about the Remoteness Structure can be found in Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0). A map illustrating the 2006 Remoteness Structure can be found under 'Remoteness Structure' in the Geography portal of the ABS website.

### **Census 2006 - Proportion of Population by Section of State**

**104** The Section of State (SOS) structure uses population counts from the Census of Population and Housing to class Census Collection Districts as urban or rural.

**105** Within a state or territory, each SOS represents an aggregation of non-contiguous geographical areas of a particular urban/rural type. The categories are:

- Major Urban - population of 100,000 or more
- Other Urban - population from 1,000 to 99,999
- Bounded Locality - population from 200 to 999
- Rural Balance - the remainder of the state or territory
- Migratory - areas composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory Collection Districts

**106** The percentages shown are the proportion of persons counted in the 2006 Census, by each category of the Section of State Structure for the selected regions. The proportions are based on where people usually resided as at the 2006 Census (8 August 2006).

**107** Further information about the Section of State structure can be found in Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0)

### **Census 2006 - Unpaid Work**

**108** Data on unpaid work show the proportion of persons usually resident in the region who did any voluntary work in the last twelve months, or any unpaid work (caring for own children, caring for other children, caring for family members or others) in the last two weeks.

### **Census 2006 - Access to Internet at Home**

**109** These data show the proportion of occupied private dwellings in the region that have access to the internet.

**110** The categories of access are: 'broadband', 'dial-up' and 'other'. Broadband access includes ADSL, cable, wireless and satellite connections. Dial-up includes analog modem and ISDN connections. Other includes access through mobile phones, set-top boxes, games machines, or connections other than dial-up and broadband.

[Back to top](#)

### **Births**

**111** Data on births are presented on the basis of the usual residence of the mother regardless of where in Australia the birth occurred or was registered. The data refer to live births registered during the calendar year shown, and are supplied to the Australian Bureau of Statistics by each state/territory Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages for compilation into the aggregate statistics in this publication. For more information refer to Births, Australia (cat. no. 3301.0).

[Back to top](#)

### **Deaths**

**112** Data on deaths are presented on the basis of the usual residence of the deceased regardless of where in Australia the death occurred or was registered. The data refer to deaths registered during the calendar

year shown, and are supplied to the Australian Bureau of Statistics by each state/territory Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages for compilation into the aggregate statistics in this publication. For more information refer to Deaths, Australia (cat. no 3302.0).

[Back to top](#)

## INDUSTRY

### Building Approvals

**113** Data for building work approvals are compiled from:

- permits issued by local government authorities;
- contracts let or day labour work authorised by Commonwealth, State, semi-government and local government authorities;
- major building activity in areas not subject to normal administrative approval (e.g. building on remote mine sites).

**114** The data included in this profile relate to all residential building approvals valued at \$10,000 or more and all approved non-residential building jobs valued at \$50,000 or more.

**115** Construction activity not defined as building (eg. construction of roads, bridges, railways etc) is excluded from building statistics.

**116** The data are as at the June 2010 issue of Building Approvals, Australia, and refer to each financial year ended 30 June. For further information see Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0).

[Back to top](#)

## Motor Vehicle Census

**117** Motor Vehicle Census data refer to vehicles registered with a motor vehicle registration authority at 31 March in the reference year.

**118** The Motor Vehicle Census includes all vehicles registered with a state, territory or other government motor vehicle registry for unrestricted use on public roads with the following exceptions:

- recreational vehicles such as trail bikes and sand dune buggies intended for off-road use in most states (in Victoria and Queensland these vehicles must be registered and are included in the statistics);
- consular vehicles;
- vehicles registered by the defence forces.

**119** Vehicles on register are those vehicles registered at the date of the census, or had registration expire less than one month before that date.

**120** Motor Vehicle Census data are presented by region of owner, and based on the postcode of the owner. A geographic correspondence has been used in order to present the postcode data on Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2008 boundaries. Due to rounding, the sum of the individual components of vehicles will not necessarily add up to total registered motor vehicles. Further information on Geographic Correspondences can be found in paragraphs 149 to 153.

**121** Note: The Australia total includes records that could not be allocated to a state or territory. Therefore aggregating state and territory totals will not equal the Australia total.

**122** Further information can be found in Motor Vehicle Census, Australia (cat. no. 9309.0). Note that data in that release are by state of registration, and so state/territory totals will not be the same as in this National Regional Profile (which is presented by state of owner).

[Back to top](#)

## **Tourist Accommodation Establishments**

**123** Data on the number of tourist accommodation establishments are derived from the quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation (STA). The STA is a mailout collection that completely enumerates all in-scope accommodation establishments within Australia.

**124** For the years presented in this profile, in-scope establishments include: hotels, motels and guest houses and serviced apartments with 5 or more rooms or units; holiday flats, units and houses of letting entities with 15 or more rooms or units; caravan parks with 40 or more powered sites and visitor hostels with 25 or more bed spaces.

**125** The main source of coverage is from the Australian Automobile Association through AAA Tourism Pty Ltd. This is supplemented by notification of new tourism developments and their likely opening dates in selected guides, major tourism journals and periodicals and newspapers. Periodic comparison with lists of accommodation establishments provided by the various tourism organisations and industry associations is also undertaken.

**126** The STA does not have a sample component and the data are not subject to sampling variability. However, other inaccuracies collectively referred to as non-sampling error may affect the data. These non-sampling errors may arise from a number of sources, including:

- errors in the reporting of data by providers;
- errors in the process of capturing data;
- imputation for missing data;
- definition and classification errors;
- incomplete coverage.

**127** Every effort has been made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, and efficient operating procedures and systems used to compile statistics.

**128** Data for 2009 have been classified according to ASGC 2008. Data for 2008 have been provided using ASGC 2007 geographic boundaries. Data for 2007 have been provided using ASGC 2006 geographic boundaries. Where data has been provided on boundaries other than ASGC 2008, no attempt has been made to convert these to 2008 boundaries. Instead, data has only been provided for regions where the boundary has remained unchanged from ASGC 2008.

**129** Further information on these statistics can be found in Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia (cat. no. 8635.1.55.001 - 8635.8.55.001).

## **Agricultural Commodities**

**130** Agricultural Commodities data are estimates obtained from the 2005-06 Agricultural Census. Data were collected from agricultural businesses on the ABS' Business Register, which is based on the Australian Business Register maintained by the Australian Tax Office. The size cut-off for the collection was all businesses with an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations over \$5,000, or a derived value based on Business Activity Statement turnover over \$5,000.

**131** During the processing phase of the collection, data checking was undertaken to ensure key priority outputs were produced to high quality standards. As a result, some estimates will have been checked more comprehensively than others. It is not feasible to check every item reported by every business, and therefore some anomalies may arise, particularly for small area estimates (i.e. Statistical Local Area (SLA) and below). To present these items geographically, agricultural businesses are allocated to a mesh block based on where the business reports the location of their 'main agricultural property'. Anomalies can occur if location details for agricultural businesses are not reported precisely enough to accurately code their geographic location. In addition, some businesses operate more than one property, and some large farms may operate across mesh block and SLA boundaries, but are coded to a single location. As a result, in

some cases, a particular activity may not necessarily occur in the area specified and the Area of Holding and other estimates of agricultural activity may exceed or not account for all activities within that area. For these reasons, the quality of estimates may be lower for some SLAs and other small area geographies.

**132** The estimates are subject to sampling variability because not all selected units responded to the Census; that is, the estimates may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all agricultural businesses had responded. One measure of the likely difference is given by the Standard Error (SE). There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all farms had responded, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

**133** In Agriculture data, sampling variability of the estimates is measured by the Relative Standard Error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the Standard Error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. In the National Regional Profile, Agriculture data with an RSE greater than 50% are not presented. Information on RSEs can be found in Agricultural Commodities, Small Area Data, Australia (cat. no. 7125.0).

**134** Agriculture Census data have been produced on 2006 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2006). Given that all data in this edition of the NRP is presented on 2008 geographic boundaries (see paragraphs 147 to 153), where the boundary has changed between 2006 and 2008, data have not been included in these profiles.

**135** For further information see Agricultural Commodities, Australia (cat. no. 7121.0) and Agricultural Commodities, Small Area Data, Australia (cat. no. 7125.0).

[Back to top](#)

## **Value of Agricultural Production**

**136** The value of agricultural production estimates are derived by the multiplication of price and quantity of individual agricultural commodities. Quantity data for commodities were collected in the 2005-06 Agricultural Census, other ABS collections and non-ABS sources. Price information used is the average unit value of a given commodity realised in the market place. Price information is obtained from a wide range of both ABS and non-ABS sources, including marketing authorities and industry sources.

**137** The values used here are "gross value of agricultural commodities produced" and represent the value placed on recorded production at the wholesale prices realised in the market place. Market place, in general, is the metropolitan market in each state. In cases where commodities are consumed locally, or where they become raw material for a secondary industry, these points are presumed to be the market place.

**138** The method of collection of relevant prices for agricultural commodities and the costs of marketing these commodities vary considerably between states and between commodities. Where a statutory authority handles marketing of the whole or a portion of a product, price data are usually obtained from this source. Price information is also obtained from marketing reports, wholesalers, brokers and auctioneers. For all commodities, values are in respect of production during the year (or season) irrespective of when payments are made.

**139** Estimates for small areas such as Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Local Government Areas (LGAs) are only available for years in which an Agricultural Census is conducted. The most recent Agricultural Census was conducted in respect of 2005-06.

**140** Value of agricultural production estimates are subject to standard error. In the National Regional Profile, Agriculture data with a relative standard error (RSE) greater than 50% are not presented.

**141** Agriculture Census data have been produced on 2006 geographic boundaries (ASGC 2006). Given that this edition of the National Regional Profile presents all data presented on 2008 geographic boundaries, where the boundary has changed between 2006 and 2008, data has not been included in these profiles for those regions.

**142** Further information on Value of Agricultural Production can be obtained in the ABS publication Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia (cat. no. 7503.0).

[Back to top](#)

## ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

### Land Area

**143** The land area data are based upon the boundaries of the Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in the 2008 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. The areas of the SLAs were calculated using ABS standard Geographic Information Systems software from the digital boundaries of the SLAs. Higher level spatial unit area figures are aggregations of the SLA areas.

[Back to top](#)

### Water Use on Australian Farms

**144** Water use data are collected in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey. Data was collected from agricultural businesses on the ABS' Business Register with an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations over \$5,000.

**145** The estimates are based on responses to the Agricultural Resource Management Survey and are subject to sampling variability. That is, estimates may differ from figures that would be produced if all agricultural businesses had been included in the survey. Errors other than those due to sampling may occur because of the deficiencies in the lists of businesses from which the sample was selected, non-response, and errors in reporting by providers.

**146** For further information see Water Use on Australian Farms (cat. no. 4618.0).

[Back to top](#)

## STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY

**147** The Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) is used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. It is an essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographic context of statistics published, not only by the ABS but also by other organisations, and its use enables comparability across datasets.

**148** This edition of the National Regional Profile uses ASGC 2008. Some data based on postcodes or earlier editions of the ASGC have been converted to data for Local Government Areas (LGA) and Statistical Local Areas (SLA) as defined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0).

### Geographic correspondences

**149** The use of geographic correspondences enables the conversion of data from one type of geographic region to another. These geographic correspondences are generally used to convert data for 'non-standard areas' to data for standard areas used by the ABS. Geographic correspondences (or conversions) are expressed as conversion factors based on population.

**150** The correspondences process:

- enables the data to be more easily compared with standard ABS output;
- enables the data to be output for other standard ABS geographic areas such as Statistical Divisions (SD), Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) and Local Government Areas (LGA); and
- provides flexibility so that data can be provided for the different regions of interest being studied by users of regional data (which are usually groupings of SLAs and/or LGAs).

**151** When analysing data produced by correspondences, the following limitations of this methodology need to be taken into account:

- in applying the correspondences it is assumed that the particular characteristics of any data item are uniformly distributed across the region. Therefore, data produced by correspondences may not truly

reflect the distribution of the characteristics of the population. In some cases, where the same region is split across two or more new regions and there are no other contributing regions, distinct numerical estimates will be derived but rates or averages will be identical for each new region (as these will be equivalent to the original rate or average of the contributing regions);

- the conversion factors are based on total population only but have been applied across all data items in a series;
- some official postcodes (such as PO boxes, etc.) do not correspond to residential areas but may still have been reported under the current home address field in some data series. Data for these and other 'invalid' postcodes, such as those due to incorrect reporting or processing errors, are included in state and territory totals or for Australia where the state or territory was not known; and
- figures produced by correspondences have been rounded so discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**152** While care was taken in producing the correspondences the ABS will not guarantee the accuracy of data produced by correspondences.

**153** In some series data is not presented for all Local Government Areas. Where data has been provided at Statistical Local Area level and can be matched or aggregated to Local Government Areas, it has been presented in the profiles.

## Geographic regions

**154** The statistics in this electronic release and accompanying data cubes are presented according to the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2008. Under this classification, statistical areas below Australia and state/territory level are defined as follows:

- **Local Government Areas (LGAs):** These areas are the spatial units which represent the geographical areas of incorporated local government councils. The various types of LGAs are cities (C), NSW local government areas (A), boroughs (B), rural cities (RC), towns (T), shires (S), district councils (DC), municipalities (M), SA regional councils (RegC), Qld regional councils (R) and SA Aboriginal councils (AC).
- **Statistical Local Areas (SLAs):** These geographical areas are in most cases identical with, or have been formed from a division of, whole LGAs. In other cases, they represent unincorporated areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of a state or territory without gaps or overlaps. In some cases legal LGAs overlap Statistical Subdivision boundaries and therefore comprise two or three SLAs.
- **Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs):** These are of intermediate size, between SLAs and SDs. In aggregate, they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. In the non-urban areas an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.
- **Statistical Divisions (SDs):** These consist of one or more SSDs. The divisions are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

**155** Further information concerning statistical areas, including information about recent changes to boundaries, is contained in Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0). The ASGC also includes a complete series of maps. SLA maps for all states and territories can be found in Chapter 16 of the publication, or can be accessed individually from the Downloads tab.

## Transformed Data Sets

**156** As explained above all data presented in this edition of the NRP has been presented on the same geographic basis, using 2008 geographic boundaries. In order to achieve this some data sets have been transformed to match the 2008 boundaries, and this transformation process can introduce error (see paragraph 151). In some cases, a decision has been made not to transform data sets, but rather to suppress data where the boundaries have changed. In other cases, data had been produced on 2008 boundaries and no transformation was required. The following table summarises how each data set has

been supplied and, where applicable, transformed to 2008 boundaries.

Table 1. Supply and Treatment of Data

| Series  | Data supplied on (geographical boundaries)                                | Transformation to ASGC 2008  | Transformation process  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Estimates of Unemployment   | ASGC 2006 (2009 data)<br>ASGC 2001 (prior to 2009)                        | Yes<br>Yes   | Using 2006 to 2008 correspondence<br>Using 2001 to 2008 correspondence  |
| Selected Government Pensions and Allowances<br><br>• DVA<br>• FaHCSIA<br>• Centrelink | • ASGC 2008<br>• ASGC 2006<br>• ASGC 2006 (2004-2008)<br>ASGC 2008 (2009) | Only regions that had not significantly changed boundaries between 2006 and 2008 have been shown for those items originally provided on ASGC 2006. | n/a   |
| Taxation Statistics   | ASGC 2008   | n/a  | Transformed by ATO using postcode to SLA correspondences                |
| Estimates of Personal Income  | ASGC 2008   | n/a  | Transformed by ATO using postcode to SLA correspondences                |
| Wage and Salary Earners   | ASGC 2008   | n/a  | Transformed by ATO using postcode to SLA correspondences                |
| Estimates of Household Wealth   | ASGC 2001   | Only regions that had not significantly changed boundaries between 2001 and 2008 have been shown.  | n/a   |
| Counts of Businesses, including Entries and Exits                                     | ASGC 2006   | Only regions that had not significantly changed boundaries between 2006 and 2008 have been shown.  | n/a   |
| Estimated Resident Population   | ASGC 2008   | Data for 2004 to 2008 has been transformed.  | Data has been transformed to ASGC 2008 boundaries using correspondences |
| Indigenous Estimates Resident Population  | ASGC 2006   | Only regions that had not significantly changed boundaries between 2006 and 2008 have been shown   | n/a   |

|                                  |  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Population Density               | See <i>Estimated Resident Population and Land Area</i> | n/a  | n/a   |
| Census 2006                      | ASGC 2006  | Yes  | Data has been transformed to ASGC 2008 boundaries using correspondences                   |
| Births                           | ASGC 2008  | Data for 2004 to 2008 has been transformed.  | Data has been transformed from ASGC 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 using correspondences |
| Deaths                           | ASGC 2008  | Data for 2004 to 2008 has been transformed.  | Data has been transformed from ASGC 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 using correspondences |
| Building Approvals               | ASGC 2003-2007   | Data for 2004 to 2008 has been transformed.  | Data has been transformed from ASGC 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 using correspondences |
| Motor Vehicle Census             | Postcode   | Yes  | Data has been transformed using correspondences   |
| Agricultural Commodities         | ASGC 2006  | Only regions that had not significantly changed boundaries between 2006 and 2008 have been shown | n/a   |
| Value of Agricultural Production | ASGC 2006  | Only regions that had not significantly changed boundaries between 2006 and 2008 have been shown | n/a   |
| Land Area                        | ASGC 2008  | n/a  | n/a   |
| Water Use on Australian Farms    | ASGC 2006  | Only regions that had not significantly changed boundaries between 2006 and 2008 have been shown | n/a   |

**157** Where data was originally produced on an earlier geographical boundary, and the data has not been transformed to 2008 boundaries, data is not presented where the earlier boundaries differ significantly from the 2008 geographic boundaries (that is, the boundary changes involve populations being in different regions, not just the land area encompassed by the boundary changes). The following table provides a summary of the number of Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas in 2001, 2006 and 2008, and the number of Statistical Local Areas that were deemed to have boundary changes so significant that data was not able to be transformed for those regions.

Table 2. Number of Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas 2001, 2006 and 2008

|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA  | WA  | Tas | NT | ACT | Other Territories | Australia |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-------------------|-----------|
| <b>Number of Statistical Local Areas</b>                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |                   |           |
| 2001   | 199 | 200 | 454 | 125 | 156 | 44  | 65 | 107 | 3                 | 1353      |
| 2006   | 200 | 210 | 479 | 128 | 156 | 44  | 96 | 109 | 4                 | 1426      |
| 2008   | 199 | 209 | 475 | 127 | 154 | 43  | 65 | 114 | 3                 | 1389      |
| <b>2008 SLAs unable to be transformed from 2006 boundaries</b> | 4   | 2   | 10  | -   | 11  | 2   | 11 | 10  | -                 | 50        |
| <b>Number of Local Government Areas</b>                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |                   |           |
| 2001   | 174 | 78  | 125 | 68  | 142 | 29  | 8  | -   | -                 | 624       |
| 2006   | 152 | 79  | 158 | 70  | 142 | 29  | 37 | -   | -                 | 667       |
| 2008   | 153 | 80  | 74  | 71  | 139 | 29  | 17 | -   | -                 | 563       |

[Back to top](#)

This page last updated 31 October 2011